

***Reasons for allowance***

1. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 18, 20-25, 27, 31 and 33-44 are allowed and renumbered as claims 1-26. All previous rejections are withdrawn.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest the recited crack resistant printing paper or board further including a polymer material applied to a surface of the web in thin discontinuous geometrical formations to define a plurality of discrete areas of the polymer material distributed over the web, where the polymer material is impregnated throughout the thickness of the web. The prior art of record also does not teach or suggest the recited crack resistant printing paper or board further including a thin film of polymer material deposited onto a surface of the web in discontinuous geometrical formations, where the polymer material is impregnated throughout the thickness of the web and is no more than 5% of the basis weight of the paper or board.

The prior art does not teach motivation or suggestion for modification to make the invention as instantly claimed.

Any comments considered by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is 571-

272-1522. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample, can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Lawrence Ferguson/  
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/David R. Sample/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1783